(b) whether orders have not been issued to concerned departments to ensure quick payment to all pensioners whose pension have been stopped for one reasons or the other; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Pension Scheme was made applicable to those Cantonment Board Employees who retired after 1-5-76. Those who retired prior to 1-5-76 were paid Contributory Provident Fund and other terminal benefits as applicable to them. The Government had received a letter recommending extension of the Pension Scheme to those Cantonment Board Employees who retired prior to 1-5-76 from a Member of the Rajya Sabha. After considering the matter the Hon'ble Member was informed that this will not be possible.

(b) and (c) There are standing instructions to ensure quick disposal of cases related to grant of post-retirement benefits to the employees. The progress of timely release of pension to retired Cantonment Board employees is being monitored regularly.

Purchase orders for DMS boots

2566. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of purchase orders for supply of DMS boots and shoes issued by the wings of armed forces during the first six months of 1994-95;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cost analysis and installed capacity availability reported by DGQA in this regard has been completely ignored by the forces;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Central Government Undertakings are being excluded from getting such purchase orders from the defence forces;

(d) whether orders to Ordnance Equipment Factory have decreased; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN : (a) An order for quantity 2000 pairs of boots at the rate of Rs. 227.68 was placed by the Naval Headquarters on a private firm.

(b) the Naval Headquarters carry out their own cost analyses and capacity verification of the Firms before placing an order.

(c) No, Sir, Central Government Undertakings are free to participate in the tender and purchase orders are placed on them keeping in view rates quoted by them and the Government orders issued in this regard. According to the orders presently in force, if the price quoted by PSUs is within 10% of the lowest valid price bid, purchase preference may be granted to the Public Enterprise concerned provided it agrees to make supply at the lowest valid bid rate.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Shortcomings in MBT Arjun

2567. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd October, 1994 under the caption "Defence but Arjun is not ready for battle", and

(b) If so, the reasons for the Arjun tank still not meeting the requirement of the Army and the steps taken to remove the shortcomings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Army has already given its in-principle acceptance for induction of Main Battle Tank ARJUN for Service-use. Further exploitation trials by the troops on pre-production series ARJUN tank are in progress. The data generated and observations made by the user-service are continuously analysed to make the desired improvement, so that the production model is a state-of-the-art tank. ARJUN tank is expected to be productionised as soon as final go-ahead is given by the Army on completion of these trials.

Delay in procurement by Ministry of Defence

2568. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in